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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: SPANISH RESPONSE TO AFGHANISTAN COUNTERNARCOTICS
PLAN

REF: A. SECSTATE 248010

On December 13, Poloff met with MFA Continental Asia Office Director Carlos Morales Sanchez to discuss REF A action request. Morales stated that Spain recognized the seriousness of the narcotics problem within the international community and expressed his concern about the opium production in Afghanistan. He cited Spain's continuing support to Operation Enduring Freedom and its recent additional assistance in regard to the Afghan elections as examples of its commitment to assist the people of Afghanistan. Morales stated that the GOS would examine various options in regard to providing assistance in the counternarcotics field. However, the GOS could not provide a concrete response at this time as to the nature of such assistance due to the fact that the 2005 budget is still pending and probably won't be approved until January.
MANZANARES